**Web Page/Internet Source Evaluation Checklist**

Use this Checklist to help you evaluate web sites you locate. Is the site appropriate for academic use?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Better sources Less reliable sources** |
| **Title and URL of page you are evaluating:** |  |
| **What type of domain is it?**  Appropriate for the content? | 🞏 org/net 🞏 edu 🞏 gov/mil/us 🞏 com |
| **Published by organization or entity that you’d expect to publish such sources.**  Does it match the name of the site? | 🞏 Publisher makes sense 🞏 some sense 🞏 no sense |
| **Editor? Is there a third party who reviews the document. If there’s not be wary!** | 🞏 Self-Published? |
| **Who wrote the page?** | 🞏 Author 🞏 E-mail without name 🞏 No name |
| **Does he/she/they give their credentials on this subject?**  (Truncate back the URL if no useful links.) | 🞏 Credentials given 🞏 Not given |
| **Look up the author in Google. Is he a credible authority?** | 🞏 Yes: Why? 🞏 Maybe. Why? 🞏 No. Why not? |
| **Sources documented with links or notes?**  Can you verify that quoted text was not altered or forged? | 🞏 Yes. 🞏 No. |
| **Links to more resources?**  Do they work? Are they similar/worse/better in quality? | 🞏 Good links to good sources 🞏 OK/some 🞏 No links |
| **Dated?**  Is it current enough for your purpose?  A lot depends on your subject. Older dates can be OK for older topics. Recent events in the news require up-to-date sources. | Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  🞏 Yes 🞏 No |
| **Evidence of bias? Look at language used by the author as well as links w/other sources** | 🞏 No to little 🞏 Some 🞏 Yes. Where? Type? |
| **Why was the page put on the Web?** | 🞏 Inform 🞏 Persuade 🞏 Sell 🞏 School Assignment 🞏 Satire |
| **BOTTOM LINE:**  Is this web site / online source excellent for your purpose? | **🞏 Yes! 🞏 OK 🞏 No**  If it’s just OK or not good, locate others!!! |
| **TRY AGAIN:** | Try starting with a database or a site that looks for school-oriented academic sites to begin with. Use the DHS library databases. (username and password: bluewave)  Or one of these sites:  www.ipl.org ; infomine.ucr.edu ; Google Scholar |

Adapted by Mr. Clarke from Teaching Library, UC Berkeley – Spring 2009